



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, GOVERNOR

Simon G. Gonsoulin, Deputy Secretary

# Office of Youth Development

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY...MEDIA ADVISORY...MEDIA ADVISORY**

December 9, 2005

### **State to Release Reform Plan for Juvenile Justice Monday**

*Presentation to Highlight Conference on Juvenile Justice*

**Who:** Office of Youth Development Deputy Secretary Simon Gonsoulin and representatives of Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. Also on hand will be family advocates, juvenile justice officials, and others.

**What:** Presentation of Louisiana's five-year strategic plan for juvenile justice reform.

**When:** **1 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, 2005**, as part of the program for the annual Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice, sponsored by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

**Where:** Holiday Inn Select (formerly the Radisson), 4728 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge.

The reform plan to be released Monday is the result of several months of public discussion about the most effective way to transition from a correctional/custodial model to one that is more therapeutic and child-centered. The plan reflects the input of about 1,600 community members who attended 10 regional meetings this summer, as well as the guidance of consultants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Missouri Youth Services Institute and the Missouri Division of Youth Services, which is widely considered the national model of reform.

Louisiana's reform effort gained momentum two years ago when the Legislature passed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003. Then last year, in one of her first actions as governor, Governor Blanco made juvenile justice reform a top priority of her administration by ordering the separation of the Office of Youth Development from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. For more information, go to [www.oyd.louisiana.gov](http://www.oyd.louisiana.gov).

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